

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9361
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AR, US
SUBJECT: GOA COMMUNIQUE ON FMS REDUCTION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1574

1. FULL TEXT OF ARGENTINE COMMUNIQUE ON CUT IN FMS CREDIT
REQUEST FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. THE U. S. SECRETARY OF STATE, IN A STATEMENT BEFORE
THE FOREIGN OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE, ANNOUNCED THAT U. S. CREDIT FOR SALE OF MILITARY
GOODS TO ARGENTINA HAS BEEN REDUCED DUE TO AN EXISTING CONCERN
OVER HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS SURPRISED AT THIS ACTION WHICH
IMPLIES INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OUR COUNTRY
AND A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ARGENTINE SITUATION.
IN THIS REGARD THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY DEEMS THE
OPPORTUNITY APPROPRIATE TO POINT OUT THAT NO STATE, REGARDLESS OF
ITS IDEOLOGY OR POWER, CAN TAKE UPON ITSELF THE ROLE OF AN
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AND INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL
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AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

A BASIC RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AS THE MAINSTAY OF
PEACEFUL INTERNATIONAL COEXISTENCE IS A VALID REASON FOR THIS
ASSERTION. THEREFORE, ANY ACTION TAKEN BY A STATE ON THE
BASIS OF ITS OWN ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION OF
ANOTHER STATE IS TO BE INTERPRETED AS A DEPLORABLE ABNORMALITY

IN THE CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. UNQUOTE.

2. BUENOS AIRES PRESS MARCH 1 DESCRIBES GOA REACTION AS "SEVERE" IN SUBSTANCE BUT "MEASURED" IN TONE. THE TWO DAILIES WHICH HAVE BEEN MOST OUTSPOKEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN ARGENTINA, "LA OPINION" AND THE "BUENOS AIRES HERALD," BOTH CARRIED COMMENTARY CRITICIZING THE U. S. ACTION. "LA OPINION" GRANTED THAT THE U. S. HAS A RIGHT TO PURSUE THE COURSE OF ACTION IT CHOOSES IN ACCORD WITH ITS OWN INTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE ARGENTINE SITUATION. BUT THE CRITICAL ELEMENT WHICH CONSTITUTED INTERVENTION IN ARGENTINE AFFAIRS, THEREFORE COMPELLING THE GOA TO RESPOND IN THE WAY IT DID, WAS THE U. S. DECISION TO ACCOMPANY ITS AID WITH A PUBLIC STATEMENT CONDEMNING ARGENTINA. MOST PAPERS SAW A DOUBLE STANDARD INHERENT IN THE U. S." MAKING AN EXCEPTION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH KOREA. THE CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN, SUGGESTED THE "HERALD," WAS THAT ARGENTINA WAS OF LESSER IMPORTANCE TO THE U. S. (THUS IMPLYING THAT THE GOA SHOULD ACT ACCORDINGLY). NEVERTHELESS, THE "HERALD" ATTEMPTED TO PUT THE BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON THE U. S. ACTION BY INTERPRETING THE SECRETARY'S DECISION WITH REGARD TO A RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT CREDIT AS AN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF MORE SERIOUS PUNITIVE ACTION BY THE CONGRESS VIS-A-VIS ARGENTINA.

3. FURTHER COMMENTARY WILL FOLLOW. SEE ALSO BUENOS AIRES' USINFO, MARCH 1.
HILL

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